

R E M A R K S

Favorable reconsideration of the application is most earnestly solicited in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The application, as originally filed, contained claims 1-17. Claims 1-16 were rejected in the outstanding Office action, dated March 23, 2006. Claims 1-17 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18-29 have been added to the application.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st & 2nd pars., for including the phrases:
wherein neither said external surface nor said organizer element includes thereon a means for securing said concealment flap in the closed position.
wherein said concealment flap includes external and internal surfaces, and
wherein neither the external nor internal surface of said flap includes thereon a means for securing said flap in the closed position.

Upon reconsideration, Applicant has determined that these phrases unduly limit the scope of the claimed invention and thus have been removed from the newly presented claims. As a result, this rejection is rendered moot.

Newly presented claims 18-29 are directed to an organizer cover comprising first and second cover panels and a spine operatively coupled between the first and second cover panels, and an organizer element located on the exterior of the first cover panel. Claim 18 – the only independent claim – further recites:

- (i) a first concealment flap extending from said second cover panel, around said spine, and over at least a portion of said first cover panel,
- (ii) said first flap being manually positionable between a closed position against the exterior of said first cover panel and an open position,
- (iii) said first flap concealing at least a portion of said organizer element when said first flap is in the closed position

The references of record neither disclose nor suggest the unique combination claimed in claim 18, and in claims 19-29 by virtue of their dependency on claim 18. Support for claims 18-29 is found in the Specification at Paragraphs [0025] and [0026].

Before a detailed discussion of the references is presented, Applicant reminds the Office that a “*concealment flap*” is defined in the specification as “an external auxiliary flap that does not function as a closure to the general opening of the organizer cover.” Specification, Par. [0031]. The following is a discussion of the references of record in light of newly presented

claims 18-29 (references numbered 1-6 feature a concealment flap and references numbered 7-14 feature a closure flap):

1. Roegner (US 6,126,012) discloses a handbag with concealment flaps 61 and 63 (Fig. 3) that extend only from the front side and cover a portion of the front side. (Figs. 3 and 4)
2. Yamamoto (US 6,161,979) discloses a notebook binder with a flap 262 (Fig. 10) extending only from the front cover over an exterior pocket mounted on the front cover. (See Figs. 9, 10 and 18)
3. Cooper (US 6,283,183) discloses a handbag with a concealment flap 100 extending from the same side that it covers. (Fig. 1)
4. Wallingford (US 5,489,021) discloses a handbag with a concealment flap 2 (Fig. 4) that extends only from the front side and conceals the front side. (Figs. 3 and 4)
5. Cohun (US 2,333,523) discloses a loose-leaf binder and briefcase that includes a flap 12 (Figs. 1 and 3) that appears (from Figs. 2, 4 and 6) to extend from the front side and cover a small portion of the front side.
6. The Fossil loose-leaf organizer (see IDS) includes a flap 10 that extends from the front side and covers a portion of the front side.
7. Macinai (US 5,725,039) discloses a handbag with a closure flap 32 (Fig. 1). Flap 32 extends from the rear side of the bag, over the opening of the bag, and over the front side of the bag. (Figs. 1 and 2)
8. Adams (US 4,739,809) discloses a handbag with a closure flap 22 (Fig. 3) that extends from the rear side of the bag, over the opening of the bag, and further over the front side of the bag. Concealment flaps 124 and 126 each extend from the front side and each cover a portion of the same side. (Fig. 3)
9. Southwick (US 6,047,752) discloses a handbag with a closure flap 33, similar to Adams, extending from a rear side of the bag and over the opening to the bag and further over the front side of the bag. (Figs. 1 and 3)
10. Siegel (US 4,192,365) discloses a handbag with a closure flap 30 (Fig. 3) that extends from the rear side, over the opening of the bag, and covers a portion of the front side.
11. Steinhart (US 5,911,262) discloses a handbag with a closure flap 16 (Fig. 3) extending from the rear side, over the opening in the bag, and over the front side. Concealment flaps 51 and 56 extend from the front and rear sides, respectively, and cover their respective sides only. (Fig. 3)

12. Thomas (US 4,687,036) discloses a handbag with a closure flap 12 (Fig. 1). Flap 12 appears to extend from the rear side to the front side, over the opening in the bag. (Figs. 1 and 2). In another embodiment, closure flap 32 may be integral with the rear side and extend from that side to the front side, over the opening of the bag. (Figs. 3 and 4).

13. Knudson (US 5,713,616) discloses a shoulder bag with a closure flap 30 (Fig. 1) that extends from the rear side, over the opening of the bag, and covers most of the front side. (Figs. 1, 2 and 4)

14. The Xhilation Handbag (see IDS) includes a closure flap 10 that extends from the rear side, over the opening in the bag, and over a portion of the front side. A concealment flap 18 extends from the front side and covers a small portion of the front side.

The references do not show or suggest a first concealment flap extending from said second cover panel, around said spine, and over at least a portion of said first cover panel, as claimed in claim 18.

Claim 19 (depending from claim 18) introduces a second concealment flap and wherein said first concealment flap extends over a first portion of said first cover panel and said second flap extends over a second portion of said first cover panel, said second flap being manually positionable between a closed position against the exterior of said first cover panel and an open position.

Claim 20 (depending from claim 19) further introduces that said second concealment flap contains a mirror.

Claim 21 (depending from claim 19) further introduces that the first and second portions constitute substantially the entire area of said first cover panel, and wherein said first and said second concealment flaps are complementarily shaped and fit close together when they are in their respective closed positions, such that said first cover panel and said organizer element are substantially concealed.

Claim 22 (depending from claim 21) further introduces that said first concealment flap includes a proximal edge and a generally opposing distal edge, the proximal edge being affixed to said second cover panel to form a hinge for said first flap, the distal edge being free to allow said first flap to be positioned between the open and the closed positions, and wherein said second concealment flap includes a proximal edge and a generally opposing distal edge, the

proximal edge being affixed to said first cover panel to form a hinge for said second flap, the distal edge being free to allow said second flap to be positioned between the open and the closed positions, the distal edge of said first flap fitting closely together in an opposing and complementary manner with the distal edge of said second flap when said first and said second flaps are in their respective closed positions. The references of record do not show or suggest distal edges of concealment flaps fitting closely together in an opposing and complementary manner. Such an arrangement is contrasted by, e.g., Roegner, which shows overlapping concealment flaps where the distal edges are not fitting closely together.

Claim 23 (depending from claim 18) introduces an annular space [being] defined between said spine and said first concealment flap when said first flap is in the closed position. The references of record do not show or suggest the establishment of an annual space between the spine and a concealment flap wrapped around the spine.

Claim 24 (depending from claim 23) further introduces that said first concealment flap includes a pen loop located adjacent said spine, said pen loop being positioned within the annular space when said flap is in the closed position.

Claim 25 (depending from claim 18) introduces said first concealment flap contains a plurality of slots.

Claim 26 (depending from claim 18) further introduces that said first concealment flap contains a pen loop.

Claim 27 (depending from claim 18) further introduces that said first concealment flap contains a storage pouch.

Claim 28 (depending from claim 18) further introduces that said organizer element is a pouch.

Claim 29 (depending from claim 18) further introduces that said organizer element is at least one slot contained in said first cover panel.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that claims 18-29 are patentable over the references of record and in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney will be helpful, she is invited to call Applicants' attorney for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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